

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8925

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: BOYD SPEECH AT IRHE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD SPOKE YESTERDAY (AUG. 27) AT POLITICAL "CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING" SEMINAR AT IRHE (STATE ELECTRICAL POWER ENTITY). HE DISCUSSED THREE FOREIGN POLICY THEMES: OVERALL FOREIGN POLICY, NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. MOST OF SPEECH WAS BOILERPLATE BUT TWO POINTS ARE OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST.

2. FOLLOWING BRIEF DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND APARTHEID, BOYD SAID: "IF THE U.S. OFFERS AID TO RELOCATE 200,000 WHITE ROHODESIANS, IT COULD WELL DO THE SAME TO RELOCATE THE 3,000 U.S. ZONIAN FAMILIES WHO RESIDE IN THE SO-CALLED PANAMA CANAL ZONE WITHIN PANAMANIAN TERRITORY THUS ELIMINATING ONCE AND FOR ALL THE THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF CONFLICTS THAT PERTURB RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND PEACE IN THE AREA." HE CONTINUED, HOWEVER, TO NOTE THAT PANAMA WELCOMES THOSE AMERICANS WHO HAVE ADAPTED TO PANAMA, AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE "SAME CORDIAL TREATMENT" THEY HAVE BEEN GETTING.

3. LATER ON BOYD SIGNALLED THAT SINCE BOTH DEMOCRATIC
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AND REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORMS AGREE ON THE NEED FOR A NEW

TREATY, "IF THE U.S. REALLY WANTS TO SERIOUSLY NEGOTIATE WITH
GOOD WILL, THIS IS THE TIME TO INVITE THE USG TO RETURN TO
THE NEGOTIATING TABLE". PANAMA, HE ADDED, BELIEVES THAT
BETWEEN NOW AND THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS THERE IS PLENTY OF
TIME TO ADVANCE GREATLY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND BELIEVES
THAT WE SHOULD NOT WASTE THIS PRECIOUS TIME. FINALLY, HE
EMPHASIZED, "IF THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN CONDUCTING JUST
NEGOTIATIONS TO SOLVE THE CANAL PROBLEM, IT IS NOW, SOON,
RIGHT NOW, THAT IS MUST RENEW THEM".
JORDEN

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